

Colby
NATHAN

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system including a television and a video transmission medium, wherein interactive broadcast data text descriptions such as electronic program guide information, news headlines, sports scores, or other similar kinds of periodically updated information that can be displayed as text simultaneously with other programming is transmitted across the video transmission medium, and wherein the system also includes a management system having a digital processor for processing one or more unique digital signatures that correspond to the interactive broadcast data, and an input device for inputting other digital data that corresponds to user instructions input by a user when searching for particular interactive broadcast data, television is configured to receive the interactive broadcast data, and wherein the interactive broadcast data includes text descriptions, a method for efficiently searching the interactive broadcast data in response to find a string of text input by a user in order to identify the particular interactive broadcast data desired by the user, the method comprising:

receiving, at the management system, unique binary signatures for the interactive broadcast data text descriptions, each of the unique binary signatures created using a first function adapted to convert the interactive broadcast data into the unique binary signatures having a fixed number of bytes, and storing the unique binary signatures at the management system;

receiving binary signatures of the interactive broadcast data text descriptions;

inputting from the input device to the management system receiving a user-entered text string from an input device;

using a second function that is different from the first function, and that is adapted to converting the user-entered text string into a unique binary signature that is stored at the management system, the unique binary signature of the user-entered text string have the same number of fixed bytes as the unique binary signature converted by the first function for the interactive broadcast data;